



Fulbright Specialist Program

A Program of the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

About the Fulbright Specialist Program

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP), part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program is a field-driven initiative in which foreign host institutions conceptualize and design projects of interest within an eligible discipline that represent a priority for their respective organizations. These projects are then paired with a highly qualified U.S. academic or professional, who shares their expertise and assists with strengthening linkages between U.S. and foreign host institutions. Participating foreign host institutions benefit by gaining global perspectives from experienced U.S. academics and professionals; executing projects that require a rapid response or flexible timeline through short-term, year-round exchanges; and building sustained relationships with individuals and institutions in the U.S.

Eligibility Requirements for Saudi Host Institutions

Institutions that may be eligible to request a Fulbright Specialist in Saudi Arabia include, but are not limited to institutions of Higher Education, Government, Non-Governmental, Cultural and Medical Institutions.

Eligible Disciplines

Projects designed by prospective host institutions should focus on one of the below eligible disciplines:

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|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Agriculture | Computer Science and Information Technology | Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies |
| American Studies | Economics | Physics Education |
| Anthropology | Education | Political Science |
| Archeology | Engineering Education | Public Administration |
| Biology Education | Environmental Science | Public/Global Health |
| Business Administration | Law | Social Work |
| Chemistry Education | Library Science | Sociology |
| Communications and Journalism | Mathematics | Urban Planning |

Fulbright Specialist Program Activities

The Fulbright Specialist Program encourages host institutions to tailor projects to their own needs. However, all projects should have an education or training focus. Due to the short-term nature of the exchange, projects should have concrete objectives that can be achieved over the course of the Specialist's visit. Past Specialists have supported host institutions by conducting activities such as delivering a seminar or workshop; consulting on faculty or workforce development; developing academic or training curricula and materials; lecturing at the graduate or undergraduate level; conducting needs assessments or evaluations for a program or institution.

Note: Personal research projects, including clinical medical research or projects involving patient contact are not eligible for funding under the Fulbright Specialist Program.

Program Parameters

- All projects must range from 14 to 42 days in length, including weekends, holidays and travel days.
- Projects in Saudi Arabia and all their activities must take place in Saudi Arabia.
- Each project is limited to only one Fulbright Specialist grantee.

Multi-Visit (Serial Projects)

- If a host institution would benefit by having the Fulbright Specialist visit the host institution more than once, host institutions may apply for their project to be Multi-Visit. In this case host institutions will need to provide a strong justification for why this approach would strengthen project outcomes. Please note that Multi-Visit projects:
- Cannot include more than a total of three trips;
- All trips must be completed within a one-year period by the same Fulbright Specialist. The one-year period is calculated by adding 12 months from the initial start date of the first visit through the end date of the final visit;
- Each visit must be a minimum of 14 days, and the total number of days across all visits cannot exceed six weeks (42 days).

Identifying Fulbright Specialists

Host institutions are not required to identify U.S. academics or professionals to serve as their project's Fulbright Specialist prior to submitting their project proposal. On the contrary, if a host institution's project is approved, the program's implementing partner, World Learning, will identify candidates on the Fulbright Specialist Roster whose professional experience, academic credentials and foreign language skills match the knowledge and skills articulated by the host institution in its project proposal as being critical to the project's successful implementation. If a host institution has identified a candidate that it would like to serve as the Fulbright Specialist, please note that the following conditions must be met: the individual must be approved by U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia; the individual must be approved to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster; and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board must approve that individual to be matched with the host institution's specific project.

Program Funding and Cost Share

The U.S. Department of State typically covers roundtrip, economy class international airfare, enrollment in a limited health benefits program, and a daily honorarium for participating Fulbright Specialists. In general, host institutions should be prepared to provide the Specialist with lodging, meals, and in-country transportation, either through monetary or in-kind contributions, throughout their full stay in country. The stipend for in-country transportation should allow the Specialist to travel to and from their lodging and project activity site as well as allow the Specialist to conduct local activities such as grocery shopping or visiting a local market, pharmacy, etc.

Application Process for Host Institutions

Prospective host institutions must submit a project proposal via World Learning's online portal here: <https://worldlearning-community.force.com/FSPHost>

The online portal accepts project proposals on a rolling basis throughout the year. After a project proposal is received, it will be reviewed by U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia. Only project proposals that are completed in their entirety will be reviewed. If your project proposal is approved by U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia, it must then be approved by multiple offices within the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Contact Information

Prospective host institutions should direct all questions to ExchangeProgramsSaudiArabia@state.gov or call:
U.S. Embassy Riyadh Cultural Affairs Office (011-488-3800 ext. 4995)
U.S. Consulate Jeddah Cultural Affairs Office ((012-220-5000 ext. 3134))
U.S. Consulate Dhahran Cultural Affairs Office (013-330-3200 ext. 3115)